Doctor-patient ratio

3462. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the doctor-patient ratio in the urban and rural areas has increased as compared to that of last year;

(b) if so, the details of the comparative figures; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation especially in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The data relating to the doctor-patient ratio in urban and rural areas is not centrally maintained. However, the doctor-patient ratio varies from case to case depending upon the various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient care requirement *viz.* indoor/outdoor. The National Rural Health Mission has been operationalised with the main aim of providing accessible and reliable health care facilities to the poor vulnerable section of the population.

Assessment of requirement of doctors and nurses

3463. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has worked out the requirement of doctors and nurses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) in what manner Government proposed to meet the requirement or doctors and nurses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) While no assessment of shortage of doctors and nurses has been made by the Government in the recent past, ho vever, as per the report of the National Commission on population of August, 2005, there is a shortage of doctors and an additional estimated 3.25 lakh nurses would required by 2015 in country.

In order to expand the facilities of Medical Education and health related services, under Pradhan Mantri Swathya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) the Government has decided to set up six AIIMS like institutions in under served-states and also to upgrade 13 existing Government Medical College/Institutions in ten States. Further, the Government encourages setting up of new medical college in the Government as well as private sector and also in increase in in take capacity of medical students.

Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) all PHC's are envisaged to be strengthened by upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posting of AYUSH practitioner and skilled nurses at PHC level. The States are encouraged to appoint doctors, specialists and paramedics on contractual basis. Multi-skill training of doctors and in-service training of ANMs/Nurses is done. The States have been requested to strengthen their nursing cadre.